

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly amend the specification as follows.

1. **Page 1**, immediately beneath the title, please insert the following new paragraph:

This is a National Phase Application in the United States of International Patent Application No. PCT/JP02,08345, filed August 19, 2002, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

2. **Page 2, line 14 to Page 3, line 3**, please replace the paragraph beginning with “In accordance with...,” with the following new paragraph:

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a disk valve comprising an inlet port, an outlet port, a first disk provided with a first through hole communicating with the inlet port and extending axially and a second through hole communicating with the outlet port and extending axially, and a second disk provided with a concave capable of communicating with the first through hole and the second through hole of the first disk on one end face and slidably and movably contacting one end face of the first disk at the one end face, wherein a closed space is formed radially outside the second disk, and the second disk slides relative to the first disk to adjust the degree of overlap between the concave of the second disk and the first through hole of the first disk, and wherein the slidably and movably contacting part between the first disk and the second disk is self-lubricated, further comprising a communication passage for always placing the first through hole into communication with the closed space radially outside the second disk, and wherein a portion of the one end face of the first disk adjacent to the part slidably and movably contacting the

second disk opposes the closed space and the communication passage is a groove formed on the one end face of the first disk.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provides a disk valve comprising an inlet port, and outlet port, a first disk provided with a first through hole communicating with the inlet port and extending axially and a second through hole communicating with the outlet port and extending axially, and a second disk provided with a concave capable of communicating with the first through hole and the second through hole of the first disk on one end face and slidably and movably contacting one end face of the first disk at the one end face, wherein a closed space is formed radially outside the second disk, and the second disk slides relative to the first disk to adjust the degree of overlap between the concave of the second disk and the first through hole of the first disk, and wherein the slidably and movably contacting part between the first disk and the second disk is self-lubricated, further comprising a communication passage for always placing the first through hole into communication with the closed space radially outside the second disk, and wherein a portion of the one end face of the first disk adjacent to the part sliably and movably contacting the second disk opposes the closed space and the communication passage is a part of the end portion of the first through hole formed in the first disk at the side of the one end face of the first disk.

3. On page 4, lines 11-20, please delete lines 11-20.